

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 19, 21 to 29 and 31 to 38 to read as follows. Note that all claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Currently Amended) A photometric device ~~for performing the steps of comprising:~~

a) a first area including a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area ~~a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;~~

b) a plurality of second areas, each included in the first area and sharing photoelectric elements with the first area, for performing photometry in a the plurality of second areas ~~subareas formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area; and~~

c) determination means for correcting a photometric result in the first area ~~when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among the photometric results in the plurality of second areas, said subareas, correcting the photometric result in said predetermined area based on the photometric results in said subareas and determining whether a backlight state exists based on the corrected photometric result in the first area.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein said determination means corrects the photometric result in said predetermined the first area ~~is corrected on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results~~

in ~~said~~ the plurality of subareas second areas to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in ~~said~~ the plurality of subareas second areas.

3. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 1, wherein said determination means corrects the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of photometric results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in ~~said~~ the plurality of subareas second areas.

4. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the photometric device comprises an overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, and said determination means determines a backlight state exists ~~is determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and a photometric result in the a peripheral area around ~~said predetermined~~ the first area.

5. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on ~~the an~~ an overall area of the photometric device where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the

photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area are used as the photometric results in ~~said subarea~~ the plurality of second areas.

6. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on ~~the~~ an overall area of the photometric device where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as a the photometric result in ~~said~~ a peripheral area.

7. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, the photometric device comprising an overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, and wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists ~~is determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined

reference value exists between the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area and a photometric result in the ~~said~~ overall area.

8. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 7, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area is used as the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in the ~~said~~ overall area is used as a ~~the~~ photometric result in the ~~said~~ overall area.

9. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 4, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area is used as the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area is used as the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

10. (Currently Amended) A photometric device including for performing the steps of:

a) ~~performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;~~ an overall area where photometry can be performed, the overall area including a first area having a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area, a plurality of second areas, each included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the second areas, and a peripheral area around the first area, said photometric device comprising:

b) means for setting a reference value for determining whether a backlight state exists ~~determination~~ based on a difference between a ~~the~~ photometric result in said predetermined ~~the first area~~ and a photometric result in a ~~the~~ peripheral area around said predetermined area ~~or a photometric result in said~~ the overall area; and

c) means for correcting the reference value based on the photometric results in the plurality of second areas when a difference greater than a predetermined value exists among photometric results in the second areas ~~subareas formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area, correcting said reference value based on the photometric results in said subareas.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein said the correcting means corrects the reference value ~~is corrected~~ on the basis of a ratio of an average value of the photometric results in ~~said~~ the plurality of second areas

~~subareas~~ to a value indicating the highest luminance or lowest luminance of the photometric results in ~~said~~ the plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the correcting means corrects the reference value ~~is corrected~~ on the basis of a proportion of photometric results falling within a predetermined high-luminance range or low-luminance range of the photometric results in ~~said~~ the plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists is ~~determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and the photometric result in the peripheral area ~~around said predetermined area~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas ~~said subareas~~, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from specific photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the peripheral area.

15. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists is ~~determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and the photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

16. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 15, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area are used as the photometric results in the plurality of second areas ~~said subareas~~, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in ~~said~~ the overall area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

17. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 14, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

18. (Currently Amended) A photometric device ~~for performing the steps of comprising:~~

a) a first area including a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area ~~a predetermined area of an overall area where photometry can be performed;~~

b) means for determining any of a plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~ including an object for which backlight is to be determined on the basis of information on



measured distance in at least a part of the first ~~said predetermined~~ area, ~~said each second~~ area being included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements with the first area plurality of subareas being formed by dividing at least a part of said predetermined area; and

c) determining means for correcting the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area based on a photometric results result in the subareas plurality of second areas including the said object, and determining whether the object is in a backlight state based on the corrected photometric result.

18. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 18, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of the said plurality of second areas subareas.

20. (Original) The photometric device according to claim 18 or 19, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

21. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, wherein the photometric result in the first ~~said predetermined~~ area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the plurality of second areas subarea including the said object of said plurality of subareas.

22. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on an ~~the~~ overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from ~~the~~ respective photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area are used as ~~the~~ photometric results in the plurality of second areas ~~said subareas~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising an overall area on which photometry can be performed, the overall area including the first area and a peripheral area around the first area, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists ~~is determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and a photometric result in ~~a~~ the peripheral area around ~~said predetermined~~ the first area.

24. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to 23, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area ~~of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the peripheral area.

25. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising an overall area in which photometry can be performed, the overall area including the first area, wherein said determination means determines a backlight state exists ~~is determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and a photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

26. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 25, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area ~~where photometry can be performed,~~

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area ~~of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the

photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in ~~said~~ the overall area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

27. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 22, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

28. (Currently Amended) A photometric device including an overall area where photometry can be performed, the overall area having a first area having a plurality of photoelectric transfer elements for performing photometry in the first area, and a plurality of second areas around a periphery of the first area, each being included in the first area and sharing photoelectric transfer elements with the first area, said photometry device comprising ~~for performing the steps of:~~

a) ~~performing photometry in a predetermined area of an overall area, where photometry can be performed;~~

b) means for setting a reference value for determining whether a backlight state exists ~~determination~~ based on a difference between ~~the~~ a photometric result in the first area and ~~said predetermined area and~~ a photometric results result in the plurality of second areas ~~a peripheral area around said predetermined area~~ or a photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area;

c) means for determining any of ~~a~~ the plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~ including an object for which a backlight state is to be determined on the basis of information on measured distance in at least a part of the first area ~~said~~ ~~predetermined area, said plurality of subareas being formed by dividing at least a part of~~ ~~said predetermined area; and~~

d) means for correcting ~~said~~ the reference value based on a photometric result in the second areas ~~the subarea~~ including ~~said~~ the object.

29. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 28, wherein photometry and distance measurement are performed in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~.

30. (Original) The photometric device according to claim 28 or 29, wherein a detection element for performing distance measurement also performs photometry.

31. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein ~~said~~ correcting means corrects the reference value ~~is corrected~~

on the basis of a proportion of the plurality of second areas ~~subareas~~ including ~~said the~~  
~~object of said plurality of subareas.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of  
claims 28 and 29, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the  
overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in  
~~said predetermined~~ the first ~~area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a  
value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the  
photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the  
photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric  
conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area are used as the photometric  
results in the plurality of second areas ~~said subareas~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of  
claims 28 and 29, wherein said determination means determines that a backlight state  
exists ~~is determined~~ when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists  
between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and the photometric  
result in the peripheral area around ~~said predetermined~~ the first area.

34. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to 33, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the peripheral area.

35. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and the photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

36. (Currently Amended) The photometric device according to claim 35, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area of ~~said plurality of photoelectric conversion means~~ or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the

photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from the photoelectric conversion means in ~~said~~ the overall area is used as the photometric result in ~~said~~ the overall area.

37. (Previously Amended) The photometric device according to claim 32, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area is used as the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

38. (Currently Amended) A camera comprising said photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, 10 to 12, 18, 19, 28 and 29, wherein operations for taking pictures are controlled on the basis of at least one of the photometric result in ~~said predetermined~~ the first area and the backlight determination result.

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